

- ✓ Seniors Resource Centre
- ✓ Citizens' Crime Prevention Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
- ✓ Departments of Education, Health and Community Services, Human Resources and Employment, Justice, Youth Services and Post Secondary Education, and Labrador and Aboriginal Affairs
- ✓ Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation, Strategic Social Plan and the Women's Policy Office



A key strategy has been the introduction of an Inter-Departmental Anti-Violence Policy Framework within government departments and agencies. This framework raises awareness about violence and provides a guide for reviewing and developing government policy based on an understanding of violence and the needs of victims. Departments and agencies are also undertaking training and information sessions with employees aimed at improving services to victims.

The six regional coordinating committees of the Violence Prevention Initiative provide leadership at the community level to coordinate services for victims of violence. They also encourage community participation in violence prevention and undertake initiatives to raise public awareness about this serious issue.

The Six Regional Coordinating Committees are:

- ✓ Labradorians for Peaceful Communities
- ✓ Grenfell Regional Anti-Violence Team
- ✓ Western Regional Coalition to End Violence
- ✓ Committee Against Violence Inc., (Central)
- ✓ Eastern Region Committee Against Violence Inc.
- ✓ Regional Co-ordinating Coalition Against Violence - Eastern Avalon

The regional coordinating committee for your region would be pleased to provide you with further information about their activities and how you can become involved.

For more information about the Violence Prevention Initiative and how to contact the regional coordinating committee in your area, please visit our website: www.gov.nl.ca/vpi or call (709) 729-5730.

“Violence prevention is everyone’s responsibility”



VIOLENCE
PREVENTION IS
EVERYONE'S
RESPONSIBILITY



Violence Prevention Initiative

Can Violence Be Prevented?

Yes. And an important part of preventing violence against those most at risk in our society is through changing our values and attitudes towards violence, violence prevention and equity. Another part of violence prevention is through government and the community working together to improve services for victims of violence and to educate all residents of our province about the various aspects of violence and violence prevention. The Violence Prevention Initiative is such an approach.

Why is There a Need for the Violence Prevention Initiative?



For many years, the women of Newfoundland and Labrador advocated to secure services for women and children who are victims of violence. Their community efforts included establishing much needed transition houses, women's centres and other support networks and services.

Together with other anti-violence groups, equality-seeking women's organizations called for greater involvement of the community in decision making on government legislation, policy and programs related to violence prevention. To that end, in 1993, the government engaged in a province-wide community consultation process. This formed the basis for government and community to work together on the Provincial Strategy Against Violence, from 1995 to 2000, resulting in positive legislative and policy

changes as well as increased public awareness of the issues. Recognizing there was still much work to be done, they committed to continue the process under a Violence Prevention Initiative. Announced in 2000, this initiative has a five-year mandate.

What is the Violence Prevention Initiative?

The Violence Prevention Initiative is a government-community partnership to develop and implement long-term solutions to the problem of violence against those most at risk in our society. These include women, children, elders and others who are victims of violence because of their race, ability, ethnicity, sexual orientation or economic status.



A guiding principle of the Violence Prevention Initiative is that the social and cultural roots of violence are based in inequality. For this reason, women, children and elders are more likely to be victims of violence. Factors such as ability, sexual orientation, economic status or racial origin also increase the risk. There is strong evidence that effective intervention, including public education and victim services, can reduce and prevent violence.

What is the Vision and Goal of the Violence Prevention Initiative?

The vision of the Violence Prevention Initiative is **of people who live in safe, caring communities where there is respect for each other, and violence is unacceptable.** The Violence Prevention Initiative's goal is to improve services for victims of violence and to reduce the incidents of violence throughout Newfoundland and Labrador.



How is the Violence Prevention Initiative Being Implemented?

The Violence Prevention Initiative is led by a Committee of Ministers, chaired by the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women. It is administered through the Women's Policy Office with direction from a Provincial Coordinating Committee which identifies issues, develops strategies and coordinates activities.

The partners on the Provincial Coordinating Committee of the Violence Prevention Initiative are:

- ✓ Six Regional Coordinating Committees of the Violence Prevention Initiative
- ✓ Provincial Association Against Family Violence
- ✓ Provincial Advisory Council on the Status of Women